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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS
OF

MASON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

For The Year Ending December 31

2004

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Uncle Sam's boyhood home (Samuel Wilson). Photo courtesy Mason Historical Society.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT - 2004

Wolfgang Millbrandt completed 20 years of service to the Town of Mason as a Selectman. We thank him for his hard work and devoted service. We welcome Mark Richardson as the new Selectman.

The withdrawal program from the Mascenic School District continued through 2004. Joseph McGuire was appointed coordinator of the Mascenic Education Affiliation Committee. Wolfgang Millbrandt was appointed coordinator of the Mason School Review Committee.

Three hearings were held during the year. The first one was to establish a commercial zone on both sides of Route 31 and 2500 feet on both sides of the northwest section of Route 124. The idea was not well received by the citizens in attendance. Therefore no action was taken. The second hearing was for no parking on either side of Scripts Lane, from Brookline Road to Meetinghouse Hill Road. An ordinance was so established which we hope will reduce lawless behavior and prevent the dumping of trash which has been a major problem. The third hearing was the use of wheeled off highway recreational vehicles within the Town of Mason. An ordinance was established which states that no wheeled OHRV shall operate on town property except snowmobiles. Time for operation is 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM on the Railroad Trail.

There will be a continuation of the revaluation process. Richard Rockwood, town appraiser, will update one third of the town each year for the next three years. The annual pickup work will also continue each year. This program is an effort to keep the town's equalization ratio at 90 to 100%, which is required by the Department of Revenue Administration.

The semi-annual vs. annual tax payments resulted in maintaining the annual tax due to a low response to the semi-annual proposal.

We were saddened by the loss of three very special citizens. Charles "Woodie" Fifield served on many committees, including the Fire Department and Mascenic School Committee. He had begun the process of placing over 500 acres of his land in Conservation Easement for the enjoyment of all in Mason. His sons will continue the project to ensure the land will remain open in perpetuity. Bronson Potter was also active as Selectman and on the Fire Department. Although more reserved than others, Bronson will be remembered for his great intelligence, inventiveness and conservation. James Rowse also served the town in a variety of ways from the town government to his strong historical interests. Mr. Rowse will always be remembered for his generosity in donating the Mann House for our town offices. These three gentlemen will be greatly missed.

The Selectmen's office is constantly being upgraded and improved with new filing systems and software, etc. We thank Katie Greenwood, our "summer help" for her great efforts in reorganizing the files. We also thank our Administrative Assistant Barbara Milkovits for all her efficient work throughout the year. Thanks go to all town employees and department heads for keeping the town running smoothly.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Richards, Mark Richardson, C. Christopher Guiry D.M.D.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS AND MEETINGS

SELECTMEN

Office Hours: Mann House, 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Meetings: Mann House, 7:30 P.M.
Second and Fourth Tuesday of the month.

Telephone: 878-2070

TOWN CLERK

Office Hours: Mann House, Tuesday 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Thursday 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon
Thursday Evening 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Telephone: 878-2070

PLANNING BOARD

Meetings: Mann House, 7:30 P.M.
Last Wednesday of the month

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Office Hours: Mann House, 7:00 P.M.
Tuesday, by appointment

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Meetings: Mann House, 7:30 P.M.
Third Monday of the month

WILTON RECYCLING CENTER HOURS

Hours: Tuesday 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Thursday 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Saturday 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Sunday 8:00 A.M. to Noon



ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

MODERATOR 2 yr term
Catherine Schwenk March 2006

TOWN CLERK 3 yr term
Charlotte N. Hastings March 2005

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK
Carolyn L. Place, Appointed March 2005

TREASURER 3 yr term
Susan Wagoner March 2005

DEPUTY TREASURER
Maria Eaton, Appointed March 2005

SELECTMEN 3 yr term
Anne Richards, Chairman March 2005
Mark Richardson March 2007
C. Christopher Guiry D.M.D. March 2006

TAX COLLECTOR 3 yr term
Charlotte N. Hastings March 2005

DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR
Carolyn Place, Appointed March 2005

AUDITOR 1 yr term
Patricia A. Greene, Appointed March 2005

SUPERVISORS OF CHECK LIST 6 yr term
Joan Losee, Chairman March 2008
James DeMarco March 2010
Sandra LeClair March 2006

LIBRARY TRUSTEES 3 yr term
Jenny Scholl March 2007
Lynn McCann March 2006
Judith Forty, Appointed March 2005

TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES 3 yr term
Robert Larochelle March 2006
Wallace A. Brown March 2007
Arthur Rafter March 2005

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS 3 yr term
George Schwenk March 2006
Donald J. Hager III, Appointed March 2005

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Irene Cook, Chairman	March 2005
Robert Larochelle	March 2005
Gretchen West	March 2006
David Profit	March 2005

PLANNING BOARD

Mark McDonald, Chairman	March 2005
Dorothy Millbrandt	March 2006
Bruce Mann	March 2007
Pamela Lassen	March 2006
Linda Cotter-Cranston, Alternate	March 2007
Joseph McGuire, Alternate	March 2006
C. Christopher Guiry, Ex-officio	

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Charles Moser, Chairman	March 2007
Michael Davieau	March 2007
Robert Bergeron	March 2007
Michael Dulong	March 2006
Timothy Kelly, Alternate	March 2007
Timothy Kicza, Alternate	March 2007
Patricia Letourneau, Alternate & Clerk	March 2007
Ulysses Shields, Alternate	March 2006
Anne Richards, Ex-officio	

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Robert Larochelle, Chairman	March 2006
Robert Dillberger	March 2005
Anna Faiello	March 2005
Elizabeth Fletcher	March 2005
Charles Lanni	March 2006
Florence Roberts	March 2005
Ann Moser	March 2007
Stuart Sherman	March 2006

FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Curtis Dunn	March 2006
Florence Roberts	March 2005
Eric Anderson	March 2005
William Downs, Town Forester	
C. Christopher Guiry, Ex officio	

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Wallace A. Brown, Chairman	March 2007
Paula Babel	March 2006
Elena Kolbenson	March 2006
Lynn McCann	March 2006
Robin Smith	March 2006

BALLOT CLERKS

Pauline Bergeron	March 2006
Rachel Petersen	March 2005
Teri Parker	March 2006
Florence Wilson	March 2007

SCHOOL REVIEW & EDUCATION AFFILIATION COMMITTEES

Wolfgang Millbrandt, Coordinator	March 2005
Joseph McGuire, Coordinator	March 2005

POLICE OFFICERS

Barry G. Hutchins	Police Chief
Steven Duval	Patrolman
Steven Willette	Patrolman
John LeBlanc, Sr.	Part Time Police Officer
Christopher Follomon	Part Time Police Officer
Richard Belanger	Part Time Police Officer

EMERGENCY SERVICES

David P. Cook	Fire Chief/Warden/EMT-D
David Baker	1 ST Asst. Chief/Deputy Warden/First Responder
Fredrick W. Greenwood	2 nd Asst. Chief/Deputy Warden/First Responder
Roland Theriault	Captain/Deputy Warden
Philip Phalon Jr.	1st Lieutenant/Deputy Warden/First Responder
Donna Richardson	Firefighter/EMS Coordinator/EMT-D
Anne Richards	Firefighter
Wallace Brown	Firefighter/Deputy Warden
Mark Richardson	Firefighter
Christopher Greenwood	Firefighter
Kerri Greenwood	Firefighter
Steve Tamulonis	Firefighter
Rick Griffith	Firefighter
Stephen Hoffman	Firefighter/EMT-I
Rodney Stedman	Firefighter
Steve Warshauer	Firefighter
Charles Williams	Firefighter
Jonathan Lavoie	Firefighter
Benjamin Harrington	Firefighter
James Deffely	Firefighter
Christopher Perry	Firefighter
Ken Spacht	Firefighter
John LeBlanc Sr.	EMT-D
Cindy Tibbetts	EMT-I
Jeff Partridge	EMT-D
Stuart Sherman	EMT-I
Jeannine Phalon	First Responder
Kathy Chapman	First Responder

David P. Cook
Kenneth B. Wilson
Lynn McCann
Kenneth B. Wilson
William Downs
Wallace Brown

ROAD AGENT
BUILDING INSPECTOR/DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER
HEALTH OFFICER
HOUSE NUMBERING AGENT
TOWN FORESTER
SEXTON

MASON TOWN WARRANT

The State of New Hampshire

The polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM at: Mason Town Hall.

To the inhabitants of the Town of Mason, in the County of Hillsborough, in said State, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to come to the polling place at the Town Hall in Mason at 7:00 AM on Tuesday, the 8th day of March, 2005 for the election of Town officers pursuant to Article 1 of this Warrant, bringing in your ballots for the following:

Selectman	3 years
Town Clerk	3 years
Tax Collector	3 years
Treasurer	3 years
Auditor	1 year
Trustee of Cemeteries	3 years
Library Trustee	3 years
Trustee of Trust Funds	3 years
Trustee of Trust Funds	2 years

And to cast your ballots pursuant to Articles 2, 3, and 4 regarding amending the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance and Article 5 regarding withdrawal from the Mascenic Regional School District.

The polls will be open continuously until 7:00 PM when they shall close. You are hereby notified also to meet at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, the 9th day of March, 2005, and at the same place to act upon Articles of this Warrant.

1. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing terms.

Articles 2, 3 and 4 were reviewed at public hearings on January 12th & 26th, 2005 in the Mann House.

2. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance, with the adoption of Amendment # 1 as proposed by the Planning Board to amend the Wetlands Conservation District Ordinance of the Mason Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Article XVI Subsection B.1 by replacing the existing definition of wetlands with the State of New Hampshire wetlands definition as defined by RSA 482-A: 2, X and established and defined by the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual Technical Report Y-87-1, Environmental Laboratory, Department of the Army, 1987;

Amend Article XVI Subsection B.2 by replacing the existing heading of this subsection with **Delineation of Wetlands** and replacing the existing language of the subsection to require that wetlands be delineated on a site specific basis by a soil or wetland scientist certified by the State of New Hampshire in accordance with the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual Technical Report Y-87-1, Environmental Laboratory, Department of the Army, 1987; A certified soil or wetlands scientist determination is not required for minimum impact projects unless they are part of a subdivision;

Amend Article XVI Subsection B.3 by replacing the existing language to enable the Planning Board or the Zoning Board of Adjustment to retain its own certified soil or wetlands scientist to delineate the wetlands if the delineation provided by the applicant's soil or wetland scientist is disputed by the Planning Board or the Zoning Board of Adjustment;

Amend Article XVI Subsection C to read: Relation to Other Districts – In all cases where the Wetlands Conservation District **conflicts with the provisions of** another zoning district in the Town of Mason, that district whose regulations are more restrictive shall apply; and,

Amend Article XVI Subsection E by adding language that requests that the Conservation Commission provide input on applications needing special exception as described in the Wetlands Conservation District Ordinance.

Approved by the Planning Board: 5 approve-0 disapprove.

3. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance, with the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board to amend the Mason Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Create a new Article XIX Telecommunications Facilities Ordinance to apply to all zoning districts in accordance with the terms of the Ordinance, to serve the purpose of establishing general guidelines for the siting of towers and antennas while preserving the Town's authority to regulate and provide for reasonable siting of telecommunications facilities; enhancing the ability of providers of telecommunications services to provide such services to the community effectively and efficiently; reducing the adverse impacts such facilities may create on the physical and natural environment and private property; and, preserving unique viewsheds and scenic values.

Full text of the proposed amendment is available for review in the Town Office during regular business hours.

Approved by the Planning Board: 4 approve, 1 abstain.

4. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance, with the adoption of Petitioned Amendment # 1 as proposed by legal voters of the Town of Mason to amend the Town of Mason Zoning Ordinance as follows:
(Proposed changes in **bold type**)

Amend Article V, Subsection B.4, to read:

Frontage and Lot Area. The minimum frontage **for a conventional lot** shall be 250 feet on a Class V highway or better and the minimum lot area shall be 132,000 square feet per dwelling unit. **The minimum frontage for a back lot shall be 30 feet on a Class V highway or better and the minimum lot area shall be 5 acres per dwelling unit.**

Disapproved by the Planning Board: 5 disapprove, 0 approve.

5. To see if the Town will vote in favor of the withdrawal of the Town from the Mascenic Regional School District in accordance with RSA 195:25 or take any other action thereto. The authority granted to the Selectmen to act on behalf of the town shall remain in force and effect until such time as the earlier of a vote at subsequent town meeting rescinding the authority or the successful placement of a warrant article at the Annual or Special Meeting

of the Mascenic Regional School District under the provisions of RSA Chapter 195, Section 29.

Recommended by the Selectmen: 3-0

6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One million one hundred thirteen thousand, three hundred twenty-seven dollars (\$1,113,327) which represents the operating budget. Said sum is exclusive of all Special or Individual Articles addressed.
7. To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of an existing Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to the Highway Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (2/3 vote required) and further to appoint the Board of Selectmen and the Road Agent as agents to expend from the Highway Vehicle and Equipment Fund. Recommended by Selectmen.
8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to be added to the newly created Highway Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve fund, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen.
9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six thousand dollars (\$6,000) to be added to the newly created Highway Vehicle and Equipment Fund and to authorize the use/transfer from December 31, 2004 Fund Balance of that amount received from the 2004 sale of Highway Equipment for this purpose. Recommended by Selectmen.
10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-three thousand dollars (\$23,000) to replace the roof on the fire station, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen.
11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the feasibility study for a new police station, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen.
12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixteen thousand five hundred twenty dollars (\$16,520) for the purchase of a computer and accessories and software for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen.
13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Highway Construction Capital Reserve Fund previously established, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen majority.
14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) for the maintenance of the town forestlands, or take any other action relative thereto. Such funds will come from the Forest Maintenance Fund, previously established for that purpose. Recommended by Selectmen.
15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two thousand six hundred four dollars (\$2,604) for the balance of the cost of the work on the new ball field, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen.
16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One thousand six hundred fifty dollars (\$1,650) for the cost of the audit of the previous Tax Collector's MS-61, per RSA, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen.
17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One hundred thirty-three

dollars and thirty-four cents (\$133.34) to be added to the Cemetery Land Improvement Trust Fund previously established and to authorize the use/transfer from December 31, 2004 Fund balance of that amount received from the 2004 sale of cemetery lots for this purpose. Recommended by Selectmen.

18. To see if the Town will vote to create an expendable general fund trust fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Town of Mason Playground Expendable Trust Fund, for the purpose of establishing a playground for the Town and furthermore to appoint the Board of Selectmen and the Recreation Committee as agents to expend from the Town of Mason Playground Fund. Recommended by Selectmen.
19. To see if the Town will vote to accept a donation One thousand seven hundred eighteen dollars and ninety-four cents (\$1,718.94) from the Mason MOMs group. Recommended by Selectmen.
20. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of one thousand seven hundred eighteen dollars and ninety-four cents (\$1,718.94) to be placed in the town of Mason Playground Expendable Trust Fund, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen.
21. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Town of Mason Communications Fund created in 2000. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. Recommended by Selectmen.
22. To see if the Town will vote to designate Darling Hill Road from the end of its paved portion at the Mason Elementary School to the Greenville town line as a Scenic Road under the provisions of RSA 231:157 and 158, for the purpose of protecting the scenic beauty of this road, considering that much of its frontage has been protected in its natural state through the D'Arbeloff family's conservation easement gifts to the Town, or take any other action relative thereto. The Board of Selectmen is designated as the official municipal body to implement the provisions of this Scenic Road. By petition of the Conservation Commission.
23. To see if the Town will adopt the provisions of RSA 72:35, I-a, II and III for an optional tax credit for taxes due on residential property for service-connected total disability (total disability is defined as someone who has a permanent service-connected disability, or who is a double amputee or paraplegic because of a service-connected injury). The yearly amount of the optional tax credit for service-connected total disability shall be \$2,000. (This raises the existing yearly optional tax credit for service-connected total disability from \$1,700 to \$2,000.)
24. To see if the Town will adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28, II, III, IV and V for an optional veterans' tax credit for taxes due on residential property. The yearly amount of the optional veterans' tax credit shall be \$500. (This raises the existing yearly optional veterans' tax credit from \$300 to \$500.)
25. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen and the Road Agent to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Highway Department, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen.
26. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen and the Fire Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Fire Department, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen.

2/21/2005	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2004 Budget	2004 Actual	2005 Proposed Budget	Change 05/'04
APPROPRIATIONS						
Town Officers' Salaries						
Selectmen	2,925	2,688	2,925	2,925	2,925	
Town Clerk	550	550	550	550	550	
Treasurer	550	550	550	550	550	
Auditor	300	300	300	300	300	
Moderator	200	200	500	500	200	
	4,525	4,288	4,825	4,825	4,525	-6.22%
Fees in Lieu of Salaries						
Tax Collector	7,250	6,945	7,250	7,250	7,250	
Town Clerk	7,000	8,025	7,000	9,167	7,000	
Municipal Agent						
	14,250	14,970	14,250	16,417	14,250	0.00%
Administration						
Administrative Ass't	26,124	26,124	26,550	26,522	27,450	
Part-time Assistant	2,000	838	2,000	2,287	3,000	
Payroll taxes	3,860	3,576	4,053	3,713	4,000	
Workers comp.	71	71	79	79	335	
Advertising	200	267	200	310	250	
Bank service charges	100	129	100	96	100	
Association dues	55	40	55	40	55	
State Dog Fees	0	927	0	1,153	0	
Conferences	600	132	600	169	600	
Computer services	2,300	3,063	3,000	2,843	3,000	
Mileage	200	95	200	131	200	
Contingency	200	-42	200	-1,308	200	
Postage	1,200	1,236	1,300	1,257	1,350	
Registry fees	350	363	350	633	350	
Repairs & maintenance	360	360	360	330	384	
Retirement Ins	1,271	1,250	1,335	1,530	1,600	
Office supplies	1,750	1,980	1,750	2,287	2,200	
Office equipment	0	0	2,000	2,000	1,000	
Telephone	725	953	950	895	950	
Town reports	1,191	1,329	1,325	1,305	1,325	
	42,557	42,691	46,407	46,271	48,349	4.18%
Cemetery Expenses						
Cemetery maintenance	1,500	1,017	1,500	2,942	1,500	
Cemetery salaries	9,000	7,252	9,000	7,168	9,000	
Payroll taxes	700	555	700	542	700	
Workers comp.	261	260	261	261	335	
	11,461	9,084	11,461	10,913	11,535	0.65%
Reappraisal of Property						
Assessing	2,750	154	2,750	4,910	13,300	
Tax map update	600	600	675	675	675	
	3,350	754	3,425	5,585	13,975	308.03%

2/21/2005	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2004 Budget	2004 Actual	2005 Proposed Budget	Change 05/04
APPROPRIATIONS						
Town Building Expenses						
Custodian salaries	6,630	6,630	6,630	7,935	6,660	
Supplies	150	184	200	192	270	
Heat	4,000	4,717	4,200	5,306	4,500	
Electricity	2,000	2,020	2,100	1,932	2,100	
Repairs & maintenance	6,500	6,285	6,500	12,628	7,500	
	19,280	19,836	19,630	27,993	21,030	7.13%
Employment/Insurance Expenses						
Short Term Disability & Life ins.	4,200	3,295	4,200	3,674	4,200	
Health & Dental ins.	82,778	78,165	85,055	87,015	108,604	
Unemployment taxes	273	273	227	227	184	
Property & Liability ins.	19,000	19,025	19,000	19,918	22,800	
	106,251	100,758	108,482	110,834	135,788	25.17%
Planning & Zoning						
Advertising	600	454	600	1,077	600	
Training	80	0	80	45	80	
Board of Adjustment	945	355	765	818	765	
Historic District Commission	110	79	110	0	110	
SW Reg. Planning/Consulting	3,696	2,996	3,718	4,418	4,818	
Supplies	50	75	50	25	50	
Postage	400	274	400	1,031	400	
	5,881	4,233	5,723	7,413	6,823	19.22%
Building Inspection						
Bldg inspector-fees	2,500	5,763	2,500	7,753	9,900	
Bldg inspector-mileage	0	0			850	
Payroll taxes	192	441	192	564	757	
Expenses	300	301	400	379	794	
	2,992	6,505	3,092	8,696	12,301	297.84%
Health & Welfare						
Health officer	25	0	25	0	25	
Animal control	1,000	458	1,000	0	1,000	
Town poor	2,000	0	2,000	0	2,000	
Visiting nurse	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	
	4,525	1,958	4,525	1,500	4,525	0.00%
Ambulance						
Ambulance Service Fee	4,052	4,050	7,300	7,300	7,300	
Supplies	1,200	922	1,200	1,397	1,200	
Training	1,400	1,481	1,400	1,405	1,400	
	6,652	6,453	9,900	10,102	9,900	0.00%

2/21/2005	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2004 Budget	2004 Actual	2005 Proposed Budget	Change 05/'04
APPROPRIATIONS						
Library						
Library salaries	25,325	25,105	26,389	25,701	27,315	
Payroll taxes	1,937	1,921	2,019	1,966	2,090	
Worker's Comp.	36	36	40	40	168	
Dues, fees & educ	1,150	456	1,150	465	1,150	
Postage	200	153	200	40	200	
Programming	150	143	200	200	200	
Supplies	400	416	450	450	450	
Telephone	1,250	1,735	850	887	850	
Technology	0	0	500	68	500	
Travel	250	250	250	237	250	
Books	2,900	2,896	2,900	2,935	2,900	
	33,598	33,111	34,948	32,988	36,073	3.22%
Parks & Recreation						
Parks Maintenance	1,715	1,918	2,165	2,165	2,165	
Electricity	350	250	120	115	120	
Toilet facilities	527	492	350	201	350	
Activities/Rec day	300	274	600	439	600	
Patriotic purposes	120	63	300	28	300	
	3,012	2,997	3,535	2,948	3,535	0.00%
Street lighting	1,000	808	1,000	836	1,000	0.00%
Town Common						
Town common	4,500	4,437	4,500	3,060	6,500	
Payroll taxes	345	268	345	216	345	
Worker's Comp	270	237	270	270	335	
	5,115	4,942	5,115	3,546	7,180	40.37%
Water Hole						
Water hole & dry hyd			500	0	500	
House & water hole #'s			175	175	0	
			675	175	500	-25.93%
NHMA	780	780	783	783	835	6.64%
Wilton Recycling Center	45,214	45,214	43,302	43,302	37,836	-12.62%
Communication Expenses	19,500	13,294	19,500	17,927	19,500	0.00%
Communication Exp Trust				-10,975		
Exp-Communication Exp Trust				10,830		
Legal Expenses	4,000	8,906	4,000	4,423	4,000	0.00%
Civil Defense	100	0	100	0	100	0.00%

2/21/2005	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2004 Budget	2004 Actual	2005 Proposed Budget	Change 05/04
APPROPRIATIONS						
Conservation Commission	2,000	15,099	2,000	14,811	2,000	0.00%
Current Use Penalties paid to CC				104,200		
Election Expenses	500	619	1,000	1,785	780	-22.00%
Town Forestry Committee	1,000	0	1	0	1	0.00%
Highway Town Maintenance						
Road agent salary	43,740	43,849	44,795	44,803	46,330	
Asst road agent salary	34,370	33,189	34,670	34,385	36,404	
Equipment operator	32,817	33,119	33,175	34,119	34,834	
Equipment operator	29,260	28,259	29,570	29,648	31,049	
Other salaries	45,133	46,135	43,638	40,524	45,820	
FEMA Reimb. Other salaries	0	-1,957		-1,933		
Overtime wages	14,199	15,370	14,199	4,740	14,199	
Payroll taxes	15,016	14,065	15,320	14,547	15,960	
Alcohol and drug testing	350	413	400	518	450	
Workers comp.	9,200	9,061	10,148	10,148	11,563	
Retirement	7,758	7,420	7,850	7,693	10,430	
Consulting engineer	300	1,020	300	750	100	
Reimbrs. For Consulting Engin	0	-740		-300		
Mileage	1,500	1,096	1,200	1,092	1,200	
Ins Settle Work		7,378				
Fire equipment rental	200	0	200	0	0	
Calcium chloride	12,500	10,919	14,500	11,271	14,500	
Culverts	1,200	1,144	1,200	292	1,500	
Paved road restoration	38,000	34,700	35,000	34,842	37,500	
Patch	2,000	1,368	2,000	1,646	2,000	
Salt	6,500	5,941	6,500	6,984	6,500	
FEMA Reimb. Salt	0	0		-617		
Plowing	12,000	12,800	12,000	8,333	22,000	
FEMA Reimb. Plowing	0	-1,369		-1,969		
Signs & Rewards	1,200	999	1,200	600	1,000	
	307,243	304,179	307,865	282,115	333,339	8.27%

2/21/2005	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2004 Budget	2004 Actual	2005 Proposed Budget	Change 05/04
APPROPRIATIONS						
Highway Dept. Expenses						
Building maintenance	5,500	6,087	5,500	7,342	5,500	
Chains	1,000	1,295	500	350	500	
Chainsaw repairs	600	501	600	12	300	
Dues, education and misc	1,400	738	1,400	725	2,000	
Edges for plows & graders	2,500	2,487	2,500	1,724	2,500	
Electricity	2,200	2,232	2,200	2,409	2,500	
Equipment maintenance	30,000	35,303	26,000	25,964	27,000	
FEMA Reimb. Equipment mair	0	-2,618		-1,335		
Fuel	19,000	19,434	19,000	16,960	19,000	
Radios	1,400	1,252	1,400	1,935	1,400	
Telephone	1,200	1,157	1,200	1,138	1,200	
Tires	2,500	1,175	2,500	1,760	2,500	
Safety equipment	1,700	1,218	1,700	612	1,700	
Tools	1,500	833	1,500	1,593	1,500	
Welding supplies	850	537	850	721	1,850	
Plow Truck Lease 3rd payment					21,835	
Subtotal	71,350	71,631	66,850	61,910	91,285	36.55%
Total Highway Expenses	378,593	375,810	374,715	344,025	424,624	13.32%
Police Department						
Full Time Salaries	111,428	107,171	109,250	113,306	115,914	
Part Time Officers	19,096	19,952	21,720	10,784	21,000	
Prosecutor	0	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	
Overtime	7,400	8,442	8,400	4,417	8,400	
Payroll taxes	3,184	3,020	3,246	2,504	3,410	
Detail expense	1	579	1	2,975	1	
Detail Payments				-461		
OHRV Grant Detail		257		416		
OHRV Grant				-546		
OHRV Fines Expense		1,056		0		
Workers comp.	2,063	2,063	2,310	2,310	3,519	
Retirement	7,730	7,786	9,260	9,490	12,312	
Conventions & dues	300	100	150	100	150	
Cruiser lease	15,702	15,701	8,414	8,414	9,494	
Cruiser fuel	4,500	4,439	3,500	3,368	4,000	
Cruiser maintenance	4,000	3,001	4,000	4,582	4,000	
Office expenses	4,000	4,534	4,000	5,689	5,000	
Training	2,500	686	2,000	180	2,000	
Uniforms	2,000	1,540	2,000	2,969	2,500	
Equipment & maintenance	2,000	1,957	2,750	2,984	3,000	
Equipment Expense-Homeland Sec. Grant				5,180		
Total Police Department	185,904	182,284	186,001	183,661	199,700	7.37%

2/21/2005	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2004 Budget	2004 Actual	2005 Proposed Budget	Change 05/04
APPROPRIATIONS						
Fire Department						
Fire Chief's salary	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	
Other Stipends	6,550	6,550	6,550	6,550	6,550	
Workers comp.	357	356	399	399	502	
Utilities	3,000	2,537	3,000	2,924	3,300	
Telephone	1,200	990	1,200	973	1,200	
Radio repair	1,400	1,000	1,400	1,348	1,800	
Fuel	850	545	850	756	850	
Code books	200	201	200	109	200	
Training	2,000	1,115	2,000	1,286	2,000	
Equipment & Maint	5,000	4,557	5,200	3,394	5,200	
Ins Settle Work	0	1,631				
Bld maintenance	2,400	2,092	3,000	1,763	3,000	
Officers expenses/Dues	1,400	1,498	1,400	2,178	1,700	
Insurance	250	0	250	0	250	
Vehicle maintenance	4,000	4,205	4,000	5,378	4,000	
Expendables	500	375	750	368	750	
Hepatitis Vaccine Program	300	121	300	0	300	
Fire Tanker Lease 2nd payment					27,510	
Subtotal	30,907	29,273	31,999	28,924	60,612	89.42%
Fire truck bond principal	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	
Fire truck bond interest	7,050	7,050	6,050	6,050	5,050	
Total Fire Dept.	57,957	56,323	58,049	54,974	85,662	47.57%
Interest Tax Notes	14,000	3,603	5,000	3,955	7,000	40.00%
Abatements & Refunds		37,364		28,863		
Total Appropriations	974,647	992,832	971,444	1,093,606	1,113,327	14.61%

2/21/2005	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2004 Budget	2004 Actual	2005 Proposed Budget	Change 05/'04
APPROPRIATIONS						
Warrant Articles '04						
Highway						
04#7 Second Payment truck lease			21,836	21,835		
04#11 Construction Capital Reserve			5,000	5,000		
Fire						
04#05 Replace tanker (7 yr. Lease)			27,510	27,510		
04#10 New siding on Fire Station			9,500	9,500		
Police						
04#09 New cruiser 4WD & equip. (3 yr. lease)			8,907	8,907		
Selectmen						
04#08 Second payment on reval			13,700	13,700		
Trustees of Trust Funds						
04#12 Sale of cemetery lots			533			
Total			86,986	86,452		
Warrant Articles '05						
Town Clerk/Tax Collector						
05#12 Computer & software					16,520	
05#16 Audit Tax collector's MS-61 and Report of Tax Liens					1,650	
Highway						
05#08 Highway Vehicle & Equipment Capital Reserve					30,000	
05#13 Highway Construction Capital Reserve					5,000	
05#09 Sale of dump truck to Capital Reserve (from Fund Balance 12/31/04)					6,000	
Fire						
05#10 New roof for fire station					23,000	
Police						
05#11 Feasibility Study for New Police Station					20,000	
Forestry Committee						
05#14 Maintenance of Town Forests (reimbursed to Town from Forestry Funds)					3,500	
Recreation Committee						
05#15 Balance of new field work					2,604	
Trustees of Trust Funds						
05#17 Sale of cemetery lots					133	
05#20 Playground Expendable Trust Fund					1,719	
					110,126	

TOWN OF MASON

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balance

For the year ended December 31, 2004

REVENUES:	2004	2003	2002
Highway Block Grant	60,458	60,403	58,198
Shared revenue	12,078	12,078	12,006
Other state grants	866	514	583
Property taxes	2,342,533	2,121,752	1,747,122
Yield taxes	21,882	28,602	6,145
Excavating taxes	0	0	0
Land use change taxes	130,400	0	22,297
Motor vehicle fees	237,083	200,773	203,720
Penalties and interest	13,054	7,978	13,517
Licenses and permits	17,105	11,140	8,884
Interest income	3,493	3,343	13,149
Dog licenses	2,677	2,887	3,135
Court ordered restitution	0	2,536	740
Detail Payments, Fines & Grants	2,302	1,413	518
Rooms & Meals Tax	40,744	35,405	33,578
Conservation Commission	14,256	12,117	7,087
Forestry Committee	0	2,610	1,689
FEMA Funds	5,855	5,944	717
Donations (Memorial & Other)	0	0	505
Other	8,041	36,322	10,899
Total revenues	2,912,827	2,545,817	2,144,487
EXPENDITURES:			
General government	278,896	274,747	190,985
Cemeteries	10,913	9,084	9,983
Public safety	310,276	235,935	232,848
Highways	356,015	411,137	387,733
Sanitation	43,302	45,214	36,354
Health & Welfare	11,602	8,411	7,163
Education	1,491,321	1,288,326	998,211
Culture and recreation	158,493	157,148	71,068
Debt service	30,005	30,653	41,344
County taxes	146,945	129,586	146,893
Total expenditures	2,837,768	2,590,241	2,122,582
Excess (deficit) of revenues over expenditures	75,059	(44,424)	21,905
Other financing sources:			
Interfund transfers	11,975	10,300	1,500
Unexpended encumbrances	57,890	4,588	7,227
	69,865	14,888	8,727
Excess (deficit) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing	144,924	(29,536)	30,632

TOWN OF MASON

Combined Balance Sheet

At December 31, 2004

ASSETS	General Fund	Capital Reserves	Trust Funds	Consrv Comm	Forestry Comittee	All Funds
Cash	\$1,002,947	\$95,303	\$157,518	\$126,965	\$64,450	\$1,447,183
Debit Memo	0					\$0
Deeded property	31,642					\$31,642
Unredeemed taxes	46,294					\$46,294
Uncollected taxes	207,830					\$207,830
Total assets	\$1,288,713	\$95,303	\$157,518	\$126,965	\$64,450	\$1,732,949

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

Accounts Payable	\$94					94
Escrow funds	0					0
Encumbrances	9,500					9,500
Payroll taxes payab	5					5
Due to schools	734,770					734,770
Total liabilities	744,369	0	0	0	0	744,369
Fund balances	544,344	95,303	157,518	126,965	64,450	988,580
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$1,288,713	\$95,303	\$154,497	\$126,965	\$64,450	\$1,732,949

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cash on hand, January 1, 2004	846,270
Cash receipts:	
Town Clerk	240,416
Tax Collector	2,284,745
Selectmen	254,398
Interest income Bank of NH	3,170
Interest income Fleet	22
Interest income NHPDIP	119
Interest income Bank of NH PoolPlus	183
Tax Anticipation Loans	1,000,000
Total cash available	4,629,323
Selectmen's orders paid	2,205,745
Payroll disbursements	416,676
Tax anticipation loans repaid	1,000,000
Interest on tax anticipation loan	3,955
Total monies paid out	3,626,376
Cash on hand, December 31, 2004	1,002,947

Susan Wagoner Treasurer

TOWN OF MASON BONDS

Principal Muni Bond

Period	Outstanding	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Total Debt Service	Fiscal Debt Service
15-Feb-00			4.50%	5458.21	5458.21	
15-Aug-00	196,213	16,213	4.50%	4,839.70	21,052.79	26,511.00
15-Feb-01			4.50%	4,475.00	4,475.00	
15-Aug-01	180,000	20,000	4.50%	4,475.00	24,475.00	28,950.00
15-Feb-02			5.00%	4,025.00	4,025.00	
15-Aug-02	160,000	20,000	5.00%	4,025.00	24,025.00	28,050.00
15-Feb-03			5.00%	3,525.00	3,525.00	
15-Aug-03	140,000	20,000	5.00%	3,525.00	23,525.00	27,050.00
15-Feb-04			5.00%	3,025.00	3,025.00	
15-Aug-04	120,000	20,000	5.00%	3,025.00	23,025.00	26,050.00
15-Feb-05			5.00%	2,525.00	2,525.00	
15-Aug-05	100,000	20,000	5.00%	2,525.00	25,525.00	25,050.00
15-Feb-06			5.00%	2,025.00	2,025.00	
15-Aug-06	80,000	20,000	5.00%	2,025.00	22,525.00	24,050.00
15-Feb-07			5.00%	1,525.00	1,525.00	
15-Aug-07	60,000	20,000	5.00%	1,525.00	21,525.00	23,050.00
15-Feb-08			5.00%	1,025.00	1,025.00	
15-Aug-08	40,000	20,000	5.00%	1,025.00	21,025.00	22,050.00
15-Feb-09			5.00%	525	525	
15-Aug-09	20,000	20,000	5.25%	525	20,525.00	21,050.00
Totals		196,213		55,648.00	251,861.00	251,861.00

SUMMARY OF VALUATION

Improved & Unimproved Land	39,699,800
Assessed Value of Current Use Land	1,009,483
Conservation Restriction Assessment	22,856
Buildings (Mobile Homes Included)	91,607,800
Public Utilities (PSNH)	1,352,000
Valuations Before Exemptions	<u>133,691,939</u>

EXEMPTIONS

Elderly Exemptions	40,000
Solar Exemptions	<u>6,400</u>
	<u>46,400</u>

NET VALUE FOR TAX RATE

133,645,539

NET VALUE FOR STATE EDUCATION TAX RATE (LESS UTILITIES)

132,293,539

WAR SERVICE TAX CREDIT

	Limit	No.	Credits
Totally and permanently disabled veterans, their spouses or widows, and the widows of veterans who died or were killed in action.....	\$1,700	2	\$3,400
All Other Qualified Persons.....	\$300	55	\$16,500

2004 TAX RATE

Town	\$5.38
County	1.09
State Education	2.53
School	<u>8.66</u>
Total Rate	\$17.66

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

SUMMARY OF TAX ACCOUNTS

For the year ended December 31, 2004

	Levies of: 2004	Prior
Uncollected Taxes, Jan.1, 2004		
Property Taxes		\$214,331.74
Land Use Change Taxes		
Yield Taxes		1,303.42
Taxes Committed to Collector:		
Property Taxes	\$2,342,533.00	
Land Use Change Taxes	130,400.00	
Yield Taxes	21,881.99	
Interest & fees		932.02
Returned Check Fees		
Overpayments:		
Property Taxes		141.18
Yield Taxes		
Interest & fees	4.01	79.19
Interest Collected On		
Delinquent Taxes	424.68	6,051.58
Costs Collected On		
Delinquent Taxes		
TOTAL DEBITS	\$2,495,243.68	\$222,839.13
Remitted To Treasurer During Year:		
Property Taxes	\$2,158,891.21	\$160,861.41
Land Use Change Taxes	104,200.00	
Yield Taxes	21,225.36	1,303.42
Interest On Taxes	428.69	6,073.60
Costs		910.00
Overpayments - Taxes		141.18
Overpayments - Interest		79.19
Conversion to Liens		50,491.13
Returned Check Fees		
Abatelements Allowed:		
Property and Land Use Taxes	2,668.68	2,979.20
Yield Taxes		
Uncollected Taxes, Dec. 31, 2004		
Property Taxes	180,973.11	
Land Use Change Taxes	26,200.00	
Yield Taxes	656.63	
TOTAL CREDITS	\$2,495,243.68	\$222,839.13

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT
SUMMARY OF TAX SALES ACCOUNTS
For the year ended December 31, 2004

Tax Sale on Account of Levies of:

	2003	2002	Prior
Balance of Unredeemed Taxes		\$20,989.12	\$5,729.80
Taxes Sold to Town	\$53,045.41		
Interest & Costs Coll	510.21	2,996.27	2,135.34
Overpayment	390.59		64.25
TOTAL DEBITS	\$53,946.21	\$23,985.39	\$7,929.39

Remittances to Treasurer:

Redemptions	\$14,077.55	\$13,325.61	\$5,729.80
Interest & Cost	510.21	2,996.27	2,135.34
Overpayment	390.59		64.25
Abatements of Unre	337.60		

Deeded to Town

Unredeemed Taxes	38,630.29	7,663.51	0.00
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TOTAL CREDITS	\$53,946.24	\$23,985.39	\$7,929.39
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TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Cash on hand January 1, 2004 \$50

Cash received:

Dog licenses	\$1,955
Automobile registrations	\$232,047
Title fees	\$786
Filing fees	\$4
Returned checks	\$175
Vital fees	\$242
State dog fees	\$722
UCC fees	\$10
Overpay	\$225
Municipal agent fees	\$4,250

Total cash received \$240,416

Cash remitted to Treasurer \$240,416

Cash on hand, December 31, 2004 \$50

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte N Hastings,
Town Clerk and Tax Collector

REPORT OF THE MASON TRUST FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004

	PRINCIPAL			INTEREST			TOTAL
	Beginning Balance	Fnds Created (Expended)	Ending Balance	Beginning Balance	Interest Earned	Receipts (Disbursals)	Ending Balance Fund Balance
TRUST FUNDS							
Boynton School	\$11,063.07		\$11,063.07	\$12,986.84	\$264.35		\$13,251.19
Stearns School	\$10,469.36		\$10,469.36	\$14,494.09	\$251.47		\$14,745.56
Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$24,512.00	\$266.67	\$24,778.67	\$2,990.77	\$225.60	(\$1,000.00)	\$2,216.37
Cemetery Land Improvement	\$3,676.54	\$133.33	\$3,809.87	\$2,328.46	\$58.43		\$2,386.89
Ellen Augusta Worcester Wilson	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00	\$20,620.07	\$792.10		\$21,412.17
Whitaker-Locke Library	\$10,808.07		\$10,808.07	\$198.23	\$76.60	(\$145.25)	\$129.58
Ephraim & Martha Lucindy Hildre	\$9,966.62		\$9,966.62	\$5,869.19	\$151.11		\$6,020.30
Bassett Communications	\$10,000.00	(\$10,000.00)	\$0.00	\$907.70	\$67.79	(\$975.49)	\$0.00
Steinberg/Budrewicz Recreation	\$1,407.00		\$1,407.00	\$42.71	\$10.74		\$53.45
TOTAL TRUST FUNDS	\$106,902.66	(\$9,600.00)	\$97,302.66	\$60,438.06	\$1,898.19	(\$2,120.74)	\$60,215.51
CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS							
Highway Capital Equipment	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$541.29	\$29.93		\$571.22
Town Reevaluation				\$91.07		(\$91.07)	\$0.00
Fire Equipment				\$2,790.93	\$32.04		\$2,822.97
Library Building	\$32,000.00		\$32,000.00	\$12,497.82	\$554.44		\$13,052.26
Highway Construction	\$35,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$481.00	\$375.89		\$856.89
TOTAL CAPITAL RESERVE FUN	\$67,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$78,000.00	\$16,402.11	\$992.30	(\$91.07)	\$17,303.34
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$173,902.66	\$1,400.00	\$175,302.66	\$76,840.17	\$2,890.49	(\$2,211.81)	\$77,518.85
							\$252,821.51

This is to certify that the information contained in this report is complete and correct, to the best of our knowledge and belief:

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS
George Schwenk
Donald Hager III

MASON HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT



we continued to upgrade our fleet in 2004 by purchasing another used dump truck / sander. This 1988 heavy-duty truck replaces a 1977 medium duty truck that was rusted out to the point of being unsafe. Our crack mechanical staff made some minor repairs, and painted this new truck to match our fleet. They also installed the hydraulic system to run the dump body and sander. We will continue to try to upgrade our fleet, as the average age (of the fleet) is approximately 22 years old.

This year we upgraded our radios for better communications, by installing new modern radios and changing frequencies to a less congested one. These radios are very important in our day to day operations, as well as winter operations. They allow us to remain in contact with our people for changes in plans, emergencies, and in the case of breakdowns to call for assistance. They also allow for communications with our dispatch center.

In the past we had hired a contractor to crush our gravel for the roads once a year. Because of changes in his business, he needs to use a larger crusher and produce more material in a shorter amount of time. We plan to crush about every three years to keep our supply up at present levels. To fund this, we have changed from a line item to a warrant article to deposit the same amount of money yearly into an expendable trust fund for this purpose.

We have continued our roadside clean up projects as we have time. The Depot Road project ran into some large boulders that we are unable to move with our equipment. The Fletcher Granite Quarry has used their large loader at no cost to the town to move these as they have the time. We also started on the side of Brookline Road near the intersection of Depot Road removing the dirt embankment to aid in drainage and plowing.

This spring we were drenched by several large rainstorms that washed out roads and damaged some culverts. We hauled and spread hundreds of yards of crushed gravel to repair these washouts and make the roads passable again. During the summer we replaced six culverts. Two were storm damage and the others were routine wear and tear. As there are several hundred of these culverts crossing town roads, replacement and cleaning is an ongoing project.

Our paved road restoration project this year was the remainder of Greenville Road. We tried a different procedure where we trimmed the brush and ditching and hired Brox to do the paving with hot mix. We were able to complete the project for about the same amount of money.

Many of you may have seen us working on the stable next to the Town Office. This building was used by the Highway department for storage and needed some repair work. We moved the building to the highway yard, and set it on a concrete pad and plan to repair it and continue to use it for storage. We were able to provide more room for parking for the Town Office and library.

I would like to thank the people who make the Highway department function, the workers, and their families. Without these dedicated people, the department would cease to function. Thanks also to the Selectmen, the other town departments and to our Administrative Assistant, Barbara Milkovits.

Respectfully submitted,

David P. Cook
Road Agent

MASON POLICE DEPARTMENT

During 2004 the police department had personnel changes resulting in the hiring of two new fulltime officers. These officers are Steven Duval and Steven Willette. Both officers bring a great deal of knowledge and professionalism to the department.

You will notice a warrant article on this year's budget requesting funds for a feasibility study for a safety complex. This building will eventually house both the police and fire department. The current police department consists of two rooms in the upstairs of the Mann House that are smaller than closets in some homes in town. We are non-compliant on most requirements for a police department and we have completely run out of space for the storage of department equipment and evidence. I would welcome the public to come and visit if only we were able to ensure your safety in the offices. We recently purchased two safes for the storage of evidence and have been forced to store them in different rooms out of fear that their combined weight may result in a rapid descent onto the first floor. Since one of them sits directly over Mrs. Charlotte Hastings' office, I would not like to be the one to explain the crushing effect that a safe would have upon her famous typewriter that she refuses to give up. Please understand that this request would not be made if I did not feel that it was absolutely necessary and I believe that we have reached a point where it is.

We saw an increase in heroin and cocaine related drug arrest in motor vehicles this year. The majority of these arrests took place on Pratt Pond Road, Wilton Road and Route 31. Route 31 is an obvious artery between Fitchburg, MA and the Manchester area. I believe that the reason for the back roads is that there are plenty of places to pull off of the road that are not well lit giving protection to the users. This issue is being aggressively targeted with a zero tolerance enforcement policy. Please use caution with finding foreign objects (i.e.: hypodermic needles, plastic baggies, balloons, etc.) on the sides of the roads as these objects may pose extreme health risks to people who may find them. If you encounter a vehicle in a suspicious location note the license plate if you are able to safely do so and call the dispatch center at 878-1111.

In closing thank you as always for your support and recommendations, they make our job much easier. We at the police department would also like to wish Mrs. Hastings the best of luck in her retirement and we will miss her.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry G. Hutchins

Police Chief

AUDITOR'S REPORT - 2003

I have audited all Town departments, budgeted or assigned financial responsibilities in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and their financial statements reflect an accurate assessment of the Town's financial position.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Greene

Town Auditor

MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

It is with deep regret that I must report the passing of retired Assistant Fire Chief Charles "Woodie" Fifield. After retiring as Assistant Chief, he continued to respond to the station to man our radio and act as a "pilot" for mutual aid cover companies. He was a good friend and will be missed by all. The department has decided to dedicate the new tanker to his memory, as he served as our water supply officer, and was a progressive thinker in rural water supply.

This year we worked to spec out a new tanker that was voted on at Town Meeting. As the year progressed we worked closely with the dealer for the truck chassis and the company that would build the body and tank to assure we received a truck that would serve the Town for many years to come.

As we made it through the winter of '03-'04, it was evident that the fire station would need a new roof. A decision was made to postpone the siding, so we didn't further damage the roof. The roof issue will be addressed at next year's Town Meeting.

I would like to remind everyone that a written permit is required to burn brush when the ground is not completely covered with snow. If you have any questions, or need a permit, please call the dispatch center (Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department) @ 1-800-562-8201 and they will page the Fire Officer on call to get in touch with you.

One of the major causes of structure fire around the country has been space heaters. It is illegal to use an un-vented space heater in a dwelling in the Town of Mason. If you have any questions, please contact us at the above number.

The department members performed many small repairs on our equipment to help the town save money, and to keep the equipment up and ready.

We are looking for some new members for the Fire Department. If you would like to join please call us for information.

I would like to thank the Department members and their families for their sacrifices to help protect the town.

Alarms in the building	2	Auto Accidents	14
Car fires	2	Brush Fires	2
Chimney Fires	2	ATV Fire	1
Electrical Fire	1	Lightning Strikes	2
Illegal Burn	5	Lost Person	1
Motorcycle Accident	2	Ambulance Assist	6
Mutual Aid given	7	Mutual Aid received	4
Odor Investigation	3	Tree on wires	1
Smoke Investigation	5	Smoke in the building	1
Total Calls	57		
Total Man-hours	Fire Calls	815	Training 1059

Respectfully submitted

David P. Cook Fire Chief

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

The following summarizes the Mason Planning Board activities in 2004:

Subdivisions

Hearing	Applicant	Number Lots Proposed	Approved/Denied
03-08	Lorden*	3	Approved
04-01	Foster	3	Approved
03-09, 04-20	Ruggiero	4	Approved
04-06	Anderson	4	w/draw w/o prejudice
04-13	Anderson	4	Approved
04-08	ATA	5	Denied
04-12	ATA	5	Approved
04-15	Mann/Devicentis	2	Approved
04-14	Fifield Estate	2	Approved
04-16	Mitchell	3	Approved
04-18	O'Grady	2	Approved
03-09	Ruggiero	2	Approved
04-19	Smith	2	Approved
04-22	Turmel/Peaslee	2	Approved
	Net New Lots	34	

Lot Line Adjustments

Hearing	Applicant	Approved/Denied
04-07	Santorro	Approved
04-21	Casey	Approved

Site Plan Reviews

Hearing	Applicant	Business	Approved/Denied
04-10	Vaillancourt	Mason Brook Nurseries	Approved

In addition to the above activities, we:

- Continued to work on the Mason master plan
- Tabulated and published the results of the Mason School Survey
- Held a joint meeting with the Zoning Board of Adjustments and the Conservation Commission to understand and agree on procedures for hearing applications that involve wetland crossings.

- Attended a Land Use Training Workshop presented by the Southwest Regional Planning Commission
- Prepared and discussed materials for warrant articles

I want to thank all the members and alternates of the Mason Planning Board for their hard work and dedication. We have all worked very hard over the past year to balance the need to preserve the rural character and balance of our community with the need to support a sensible rate of growth.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark McDonald
Chairman

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Income from land use change tax.....	\$104,200
Income from donations, etc.....	\$4,079
2004 Budget.....	\$2,000
Expenses	\$16,257 (\$234 for RR Trail maint.)
Interest	\$796
Funds on hand 12/31/04	\$6,929 (Remaining from 1995 timber cut)
Railroad Trail Maintenance Fund 12/31/04	\$134
Land Protection Fund 12/31/04.....	\$117,868
Stewardship Fund 12/31/04	\$2,034
Total All Funds	\$126,965

It's been a busy year for the Commission, with a mix of happy and sad events.

In the area of ongoing activities, Commission members continued to monitor easements and town conservation lands. (For those who don't know, the Commission is responsible for monitoring compliance with the conditions of easements for which it is the primary holder. A portion of our budget goes to this work.). Our monitoring responsibilities also include looking out for and mitigating wetland violations, and this year we dealt with two such situations. Finally, we've obtained a large cache of boundary marker signs to delineate the town's conservation holdings. The attractive signs were designed by Marcia Osborn who, sadly for us, decided this year to move closer to her family, leaving us with a vacant spot on the Commission. Happily for us, that spot was quickly filled by Ann Moser whom we welcome as our newest member. (Bob D. is glad to finally be rid of the "junior member" label.)

The town's conservation lands continued to grow this year. 45 additional acres on Darling Hill Rd. were placed under conservation easement through the selflessness of the d'Arbeloff family. The town also discontinued a portion of Mitchell Hill Rd., returning the effected land to abutters, both of which are conserved properties.

With great sadness, we marked the passing of two prominent Mason residents, Woodie Fifield and Bronson Potter. Woodie's spirit lives on in his sons Chip and Craig who graciously embraced Woodie's wish to conserve his acreage off Black Brook Rd. and are continuing that effort.

Bronson loved the character of Mason and that love is reflected in his will that increases the town's conservation lands by over 500 acres. Both men will long be remembered here; think of them as you stroll across the beautiful countryside they've protected for you forever.

In the Fall, the commission had a visit from members of MANE, the Mason Area Neighborhood Equestrians. (We call them the "Horse Club" for short.) The club is eager to cooperate with the commission to maintain and repair rideable trails to the benefit of all trail users. Their first project, supported by funds donated by the Commission, will be to repair the Railroad Trail bridge over Black Brook. We'll also be working together to develop trail maps.

And speaking of working together, several projects are underway in connection with ROST (the Regional Open Space Team, with members of Conservation Commissions from regional towns). That group has recently begun a trail-mapping project for the region. We've also been taking advantage of wildlife habitat maps and related data recently obtained free-of-charge from N.H. Fish & Game to identify wildlife corridors that cross town boundaries. This work will inform future conservation efforts. Finally, ROST hopes to make a bulk purchase (to reduce costs) of tree-identification signs that member towns can use for public education along nature trails, in parks, or in similar locations.

Respectfully submitted,
Conservation Commission

HOME HEALTHCARE and COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.
Report to the Town of Mason
January 1, 2004- December 31, 2004
Annual Report

In 2004, HCS - Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services continued to provide home care and community services to the residents of Mason. The following information represents a projection of HCS's activities in your community in 2004.

SERVICE REPORT

<u>Services Offered</u>	<u>Services Provided</u>
Nursing	20 Visits
Physical Therapy	21 Visits
Occupational Therapy	15 Visits
Home Health Aide	30 Visits

Prenatal care, hospice services and regularly scheduled wellness clinics and child health clinics are also available to residents. Town funding partially supports these services.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The actual cost of all services provided in 2004 with all funding sources is \$9,130.00. These services have been supported to the greatest extent possible by Medicare, Medicaid, other insurances, grants, and patient fees. Services that were not covered by other funding have been supported by your town.

For 2005, we request an appropriation of \$1,500.00 to continue to meet the home care needs of Mason residents. Thank you for your consideration.



**Mason Public
Library**
16 Darling Hill Rd.
Mason NH 03048
878-3867 Telephone
878-6146 FAX
masonlib@monad.net

Hours
Tuesday 1-8P
Wednesday 9A-5P
Thursday 10A- 8P
Saturday 1-4P

<http://www.personal.monad.net/~masonlib>

Annual Report

The Mason Public Library continues its endeavor to meet the needs of our changing community. This is apparent as new books are added to our collection and we stay updated with ever changing technology and a maintained web site.

Programming was a large part of the library's outreach activities. Programs were scheduled during school hours enabling the Elementary students to participate. "Rock Lady " Barbara Medlyn presented an educational and exciting geology presentation. Magician, Eddie Raymond held the full house audience fascinated at the Town Hall.

Our first book signing was a wonderful success with Author Charles Ruckstuhl's afternoon of reminiscing and reacquainting with old friends as he shared his book about C.W. Anderson, Andy as I knew Him.

Our monthly Book Club and annual programs continue to have a faithful following. The Annual Poetry Contest was extended to include children, young poets and adults.

We base the success of the Mason Public Library on the dedicated employees and many volunteers that work diligently keeping our library a place to learn and have fun. We appreciate the donations of time, talent, books and materials as well as money that allow us to work within a small budget while providing a positive and vital community resource.

Respectfully,

Lynn McCann

Judy Forty

Jenny Scholl

Library Trustees

Mason Public Library Financial Report for 2004

Receipts

Town Appropriations	34948.00
Donations	165.00
Fundraising (Book Sales, Bake Sale, Raffle, Poetry Contest)	610.25
Whitacker-Locke Trust Fund Interest	145.25
Fees and Fines	309.55
Checking Account Interest	4.82
TOTAL	36182.87

Expenditures

Salaries	25701.22
Payroll Tax	1966.07
Workers Comp	40.04
Dues and Fees	465.00
Postage	39.67
Programming (\$199.66 from Town Budget + \$ 442.00 from Library Checking Account)	641.66
Supplies (\$449.57 from Town Budget + \$ 149.44 from Library Checking Account)	599.01
Telephone	886.73
Travel	237.12
Technology	67.66
Books, Magazines and Software	3139.36
Bank Service Fee	5.00
TOTAL	33788.54

Return to Town General Fund – appropriations not used	(1960.33)
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Checking Account

Ocean Bank (formerly Granite Bank) - Beginning Balance - January 1, 2004	4469.52
Ending Balance - December 31, 2004	4903.52

Other Accounts held by the Library

Shields & Sons (formerly Barclay) Mutual Fund – December 31, 2004 value of fund	6345.66
Ocean Bank – CD – In Memory of Pam Steinberg – (\$1000.00 principle) – matures 6/05	1073.41

Library Statistics 2004	Catalogued Books	Paperbacks	Audios	Video/DVD	Music Tape/CD
Added to Collection	374	112	25	53	15
Added by Donation	168	54	25	53	15
Added by Purchase	206	58	0	0	0
Lost or Withdrawn	776	243	66	45	0
Total Collection	9643	976	241	556	15

Total Patrons	873	Total Items Borrowed	9839
Programs	111	Inter Library Loan: Borrowed	365
Program Participants	1124	Inter Library Loan: Lent	121
Computer Use (patron hours)	208		

REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

There have been seventy-one (71) Building Permits issued during 2004. They were issued for the following (and the total valuation is also listed):

19	Permanent Dwellings	\$2,404,618
22	Additions to Home	573,325
5	Deck Additions to Home	28,955
2	Finish Cellars	32,232
8	Barns	167,772
3	Barn Additions	13,740
2	Garages	12,636
3	Sheds	18,349
2	Greenhouses	41,233
1	Greenhouse Addition to Barn	12,636
1	Electrical Service	3,000
1	Comm	12,946
2	Septic Repair	<u>6,000</u>
		\$3,327,442

Of the nineteen permanent dwellings, one was a renewal permit. There have been 16 Oil Burner and/or Oil Storage Permits issued. A permit is required for installing and operating oil-burning equipment that includes replacement oil burners and/or oil storage tanks.

Some residents do not understand when a Building Permit is required. Please refer to the Town of Mason Planning Ordinance, Article VII. I will be happy to help with any questions.

The House and Waterhole Numbering System is continually being updated and new numbers issued. It would be beneficial if all residents would use their correct house numbers and post your numbers using three-inch high reflective numbers, facing both directions.

I hold Office Hours at the Mann House on Tuesday evenings by appointment only. Please call 878-2894 for your appointment or questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth B. Wilson

Building Inspector

REPORT OF BUILDINGS and GROUNDS

The Town Hall got a much needed coat of paint and some siding was replaced. The rear and side exit doors are in bad shape, so two new doors have been purchased which will be installed this spring. Also the sill under the door going into the furnace room will have to be replaced. This

fall when the weather turned colder the furnace died. A new one has been installed and hopefully will last many years.

The Mann House also needed furnace repairs and water pump repairs. Heavy-duty carpeting was installed in the meeting room. In 2005 the bathroom floor will be replaced and some painting will be done. Hopefully this year we will also be able to get some paint on Captain Mann's store.

The town common has recovered very well from all the trees that were removed in 2002. One of the sugar maples in front of Captain Mann's store is dying and will have to be taken down soon. We continue to fill holes and seed where it is needed.

The ball field area on Sand Pit Road has a new field. It was completed in the fall and hydroseeded. If all goes well it can be used in the spring of 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Wallace A. Brown

Buildings and Grounds Manager

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY TRUSTEES



he year 2004 was another busy year of mowing, fertilizing, and trimming in all of the cemeteries.

During the year, many of the footstones that had been pulled up were reset in their proper locations.

We have purchased a flagpole to be set in Pleasant View Cemetery in the spring of 2005. We are also having signs made that will be put on the gates at each cemetery.

Residents of Mason interested in purchasing cemetery lots at Prospect Hill Cemetery may contact Wallace Brown, Sexton, at 878-1481 for details.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Raftler

Wallace Brown

Robert Larochelle

Cemetery Trustees



DEATHS and/or BURIALS in the TOWN of MASON
for the year ending December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2004

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Place of Death</u>
2003		
Dec. 22	Lloyd N. Williams	West Townsend, MA
2004		
Jan. 1	Joshua Curtis Barriere	Brockton, MA
Jan. 1	Myles Sebastian Barriere	Brockton, MA
Jan. 23	Raymond Aker	Worcester, MA
May 9	Charles W. Fifield III	Nashua
Aug. 2	Bronson Potter	Mason
Aug. 8	Ronald Harry	Hawaii
Sept. 7	Dominic Pace	Mason
Nov. 2	James A. Rowse, Sr.	Mason

MARRIAGES REGISTERED in the TOWN of MASON
for the year ending December 31, 2004

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Apr. 10	Edward E. Lawrence Linda A. Janis	Barre, MA Barre, MA
Sept. 4	Peter D. Goldsmith Marla S. Berry	Amherst Mason
Sept. 16	Stanley M. Franzek Lisa A. Wilkins	Groton, MA Mason
Nov. 21	Alan A. Wolfe Mary E. Ouellette	Mason Mason
Nov. 27	Shawn Lawler Alison L. Eastman	Mason Hollis

BIRTHS in the TOWN of MASON
for the year ending December 31, 2004

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Parents</u>
Jan. 14	Meredith Rachel Partridge	Nashua	Jeffrey Partridge Rebecca Partridge
Jan. 14	Victoria Concetta Burroughs	Nashua	John Burroughs Anna Burroughs
Feb. 22	Mason Benjamin Daly	Nashua	Michael Daly Louise Daly
Mar. 7	James LeAnh Arsenault	Nashua	Mark Arsenault Anh Arsenault
Mar. 21	Evan Michael Perry	Nashua	Christopher Perry Kirsten Perry
Apr. 11	Cali Lane Metcalfe	Boston, MA	Craig Metcalfe Amy Metcalfe
May 22	Isiac Kenter Adams	Nashua	Anthony Adams Lisa Adams
June 1	Willow Marie Baribault	Mason	Edward Baribault Jessica Baribault
June 1	Maeghan Rosemary Baribault	Mason	Edward Baribault Jessica Baribault
Aug. 1	Aidan Nicholas Jodoin	Bedford	Mark Jodoin Elisha Jodoin
Sept. 2	Zachary Stirling Greer	Nashua	Thomas Greer Jennifer Greer
Sept. 13	Madelyn Grace Damery	Nashua	Michael Damery Marlene Damery
Sept. 16	David Malcolm McGowan	Nashua	Richard McGowan Susan McGowan
Oct. 7	Phoebe Grace Edelblut	Nashua	Frank Edelblut Kathleen Edelblut
Oct. 14	Katherine Michelle Powers	Nashua	John Powers Ann Powers
Oct. 20	Wesley Charles Kreisz	Peterborough	Charles Kreisz Faith Kreisz
Nov. 26	Sean Thomas Blais	Nashua	James Blais Carly Blais
Nov. 26	Connor David Blais	Nashua	James Blais Carly Blais
Dec. 7	Aidan Bruce Parker	Nashua	Jeffrey Parker Diane Varney-Parker



TOWN ELECTION MARCH 9, 2004
TOWN MEETING MARCH 10, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk. Polls were declared open at 7:07 A.M. Checklist total was 829. Polls were closed at 8:09 P.M. after 590 had voted. This included 19 absentee voters. Checklist total was now 857.

Results of the election were as follows:

Selectman for 3 years: Isabelle Davis 170

Kenneth Greene 158

Mark Richardson 207

Moderator for 2 years: Catherine Schwenk 501

Auditor for 1 year: no one elected

Library Trustee for 3 years: Jenny Scholl 499

Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 years: James R. DeMarco 13 Write-ins.

Trustee of Cemeteries for 3 years: Wallace A. Brown 523

Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years: no one elected

Trustee of Trust Funds for 1 year: no one elected

1. The Town voted to amend the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance, **Article III, Section C** to increase the minimum fee from \$9.00 to \$30.00. This was by Ballot. 285 yes, 221 no.
2. The Town voted to amend the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance, under **Fire and General Information**, to increase the Oil Burner Permit inspection fee from \$6.00 per inspection to \$30.00, with \$20.00 allocated to the inspector and \$10.00 to the Town. This was by Ballot. 253 yes, 250 no.
3. The Town voted to amend the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance, **Article III** by adding a new subsection **G. Section Title: "Requirements for a building permit on a lot without an existing dwelling". Paragraph: "Prerequisites for Building Permit: permanent boundary markers on lot; proof of ownership of lot; state septic approval; driveway permit from NH Department of Transportation or Town Road Agent; building plans; copy of New Hampshire Plumber's License; and copy of New Hampshire Electrician's License"**. This was by Ballot. 296 yes, 203 no.

School Board results: C. Christopher Guiry 298

Rachel Peterson 230

Note was made that 75/25 school funding passed.

The Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk at 7:30 P.M. She reviewed the procedure we would follow. Note was made of the fire and emergency exits. Thanks were expressed to all who were involved in the election process. She introduced those who were sitting at the head table.

Mrs. Schwenk acknowledged the 20 years of service by Wolfgang Millbrandt as a selectman. Mrs. Richards presented him with a plaque, followed by a standing ovation. Also, it was noted that Karen Chemello had retired as a Supervisor of the Checklist.

A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the Warrant.

Boy Scout Troop 264 presented the colors. Tom McGuire led us in the pledge of Allegiance.

Corrections to the Town Report were as follows: On page 6, George Schwenk 's expiration should be 2006. On page 21, the Tax Rate is for 2004. On page 24, replace "our" with "my" in the

Trustees of Trust Funds report. On page 3, add scholar after Senior Road. On page 17, it should read Warrant Articles 2004.

Article 5. The Town voted to ratify and affirm the authority of the Selectmen to enter into that seven year lease agreement, for the purpose of leasing a fire tanker truck with equipment for the Fire Department, total cost of the new tanker will be One hundred ninety-two thousand five hundred seventy dollars (\$192,570) and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-seven thousand five hundred ten dollars (\$27,510) for the first year's payment of the lease. This lease agreement contains a fiscal funding escape clause.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to advance Articles 20, 21, and 22.

Article 20. The Town voted to withdraw from the Mascenic Regional School District in accordance with RSA 195:25. This was by Ballot Vote. Polls were opened at 8:35 and closed at 8:42. 141 Yes and 34 no.

A very long discussion was held on this article, before the vote. Questioned why it was necessary to vote again this year. Residents were very emotional about this subject.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to negotiate with the North Middlesex Regional School District and enter into an agreement enabling the tuitioning and transportation of Mason students in the grades of six through twelve to schools in said district.

Considerable debate on this article preceded the vote.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to replace "North Middlesex Regional" with "another". Also added " of six or eight" and "said agreement to be conditional on approval by the Mascenic Withdrawal Committee Plan".

Article 21. The Town voted to authorize the selectmen to negotiate with another School District and enter into an agreement enabling the tuitioning and transportation of Mason students in the grades of six or eight through twelve to schools in said district. Said agreement to be conditional on approval by the Mascenic Withdrawal Committee Plan".

Article 22. To see if there is a consensus in the Town of Mason for the following:

- ◆ to raise and appropriate sufficient funds to cover the withdrawal costs from the Mascenic Regional School District, approximately \$700,000
- ◆ to enlarge and modify the existing Mason Elementary School to accommodate kindergarten through grade five, approximately \$380,000, (half to be funded from state new construction aid)
- ◆ to tuition Mason students, grades six through twelve, to North Middlesex Regional School District at approximately \$680,000, including transportation.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to change the wording in paragraph 3 to read "another" and add "grades 6 or 8".

A lot of concern was expressed about the total costs and other items, for example salaries, which were not mentioned in this article.

Article 22. There is a consensus in the Town of Mason for the following:

- ◆ to raise and appropriate sufficient funds to cover the withdrawal costs from the Mascenic Regional School District, approximately \$700,000
- ◆ to enlarge and modify the existing Mason Elementary School to accommodate kindergarten through grade five, approximately \$380,000, (half to be funded from state new construction aid)

- ◆ to tuition Mason students, grades six or eight through twelve, to another School District at approximately \$680,000, including transportation.

This consensus was by Ballot Vote. Polls were opened at 9:36 and closed at 9:45. 123 yes, 34 no.

The Town budget was reviewed page by page.

Article 6. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine hundred seventy-one thousand four hundred forty-four dollars (\$971,444) which represents the operating budget. Said sum is exclusive of all Special or Individual Articles addressed.

Article 7. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-one thousand eight hundred thirty-six dollars (\$21,836) for the second year's payment of the lease for the Highway Department's dump truck as voted for at Town Meeting, March 2003.
The vote was unanimous.

Article 8. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirteen thousand seven hundred dollars (\$13,700) for the balance of the cost of the revaluation of the town.
A motion was made, seconded to amend that the payment to be contingent upon standards being made available at Mann House or by mail. The motion to amend was lost.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to ratify and affirm the authority of the Selectmen to enter into that three year lease agreement for the purpose of leasing and equipping a new four wheel drive vehicle for the Police Department, total cost of the new vehicle will be Twenty-eight thousand six hundred dollars (\$28,600) and to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine thousand six hundred dollars (\$9,600) for the first year's payment of the lease, or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made and seconded to change the total from \$28,600.00 to \$26,719.00. This amendment passed unanimously.

A second motion was made and seconded to change the first year's payment from \$9,600.00 to \$8,907.00. This motion passed unanimously.

Article 9. The Town voted to ratify and affirm the authority of the Selectmen to enter into that three year lease agreement for the purpose of leasing and equipping a new four wheel drive vehicle for the Police Department, total cost of the new vehicle will be Twenty-six thousand seven hundred nineteen dollars (\$26,719) and the Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight thousand nine hundred seven dollars (\$8,907) for the first year's payment of the lease.
This was by Ballot Vote. Polls were opened at 10:50 to 10:59. 81 yes, 16 no.

Article 10. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine thousand five hundred dollars (\$9,500) to re-side the fire station.
The vote was unanimous.

Article 11. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Highway Construction Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The vote was unanimous.

Article 12. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Five hundred thirty-three dollars and thirty-four cents (\$533.34) to be added to the Cemetery Land Improvement Trust Fund previously established and to authorize the use/transfer from December 31, 2003 Fund balance of that amount received from the 2003 sale of cemetery lots for this purpose.
The vote was unanimous.

Article 13. The Town voted to discontinue the Town Reevaluation Capital Reserve Fund created in 1982. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund.
The vote was unanimous.

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to designate Darling Hill Road, Cascade Road and Old Ashby Road as Scenic Roads under the provisions of RSA 231:157 and 158 for the purpose of protecting the scenic beauty of these roads, or take any other action relative thereto. By petition of the Conservation Commission.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to, after Cascade Road add " the part of Old Ashby Road that runs from Merriam Hill Road to Cascade Road. At the end add "Prior written consent (required in some situations) shall be by Selectmen pursuant to RSA 231:158.
The amendment passed unanimously.

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to designate Darling Hill Road, Cascade Road and the part of Old Ashby Road that runs from Merriam Hill Road to Cascade Road as Scenic Roads under the provisions of RSA 231:157 and 158 for the purpose of protecting the scenic beauty of these roads, or take any other action relative thereto. Prior written consent (required in some situations) shall be by Selectmen pursuant to RSA 231:158. By petition of the Conservation Commission.

This article failed to pass by hand vote. 32 yes, 47 no.

Article 15. The Town voted to discontinue absolutely Mitchell Hill Road as a public highway from the intersection with Black Brook Road to the power line crossing.

Article 16. The Town adopted the provisions of RSA 72:35, I-a, II and III for an optional tax credit for taxes due on residential property for service-connected total disability (total disability is defined as someone who has a permanent service-connected disability, or who is a double amputee or paraplegic because of a service-connected injury). The yearly amount of the optional tax credit for service-connected total disability for 2004 shall be \$1,700.

This was by hand vote. Yes 39, 22 no.

Article 17. The Town adopted the provisions of RSA 72:28, II, III, IV and V for an optional veterans' tax credit for taxes due on residential property. The yearly amount of the optional veterans' tax credit for 2004 shall be \$300.

Article 18. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Road Agent to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Highway Department.

Article 19. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Fire Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Fire Department.
The vote was unanimous.

The Meeting was adjourned at Sine Dai at 11:59 P.M.

Charlotte N Hastings, Town Clerk

Presidential Primary January 27, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk. Polls were declared open at 11:00 A.M. Checklist total was 814, which included 126 Democrats, 221 Republicans and 465 Undeclared. 368 voted, 93 Republicans, (5 Absentees) and 275 Democrats (8 Absentees). Voter turnout was about 45%.

President

Republican Race:	Blake Ashby	1
	George Bush	82
	"Tom" Laughlin	1
	"Jim" Taylor	1

Vice President

Flora Bleckner	7
"Red" Jahnche	7

Democratic Race	Wesley K. Clark	30
	Howard Dean	91
	John Edwards	34
	Dennis J. Kucinich	8
	Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr	1
	"Joe" Lieberman	25

Complete information is on file at the Secretary of State's office. At the end of the voting, the breakdown was as follows: 185 Democrats, 228 Republicans and 420 Undeclared. 19 new voters were added, making the total of the checklist 833. 130 went back to Undeclared status.

Polls were closed at 7:00 P.M.

Charlotte N Hastings, Town Clerk

State Primary Election September 14, 2004

Meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk. She made a few announcements and tribute was given to the armed forces and their families. Polls were opened at 11:00 A.M. Check list total was 847, which included 209 Republicans, 129 Democrats and 509 Undeclared. Polls were closed at 7:00 P.M. after 149 had voted. This included 2 absentee voters. New total was 849. 156 Democrats, 252 Republicans and 441 Undeclared.

Results are as follows:

Republican		Democrat	
Governor:			
Benson	66	Lynch	39
Tarbell	19	McEachern	16
US Senator			
Gregg	75	Haddock	48
Tipa	5		
Alciere	8		

Representative in Congress			
Bass	57	Hodes	20
Brady	29	Owen	21
Executive Councilor			
Stylianous	26	Pignatelli	44
Wheeler	59		
State Senator			
DuBois	12	Gottzman	39
Haytayan	55		
LaFlamme	27		
Representatives			
Drisko	49	Dunn	31
Gargas	43	Hall	45
Molkentine	37	Helfman	30
Ryder	46	Robinson	31

State General Election November 2, 2004

The Moderator called the meeting to order. She made a few announcements and the polls were declared open at 6:59 A.M. There were 867 on the voter's list. This included 128 Democrats, 205 Republicans and 534 Undeclared. Polls were closed at 8:00 P.M. after 844 had voted. This included 58 absentee voters. Total checklist at closing was 934. There are now 133 Democrats, 212 Republicans and 589 Undeclared. We had 67 new voters. This was a 90% turnout.

Results were as follows:

Republican		Democrat		Undeclared	
Pres/VP					
Bush/Cheney	408	Kerry/Edwards	420	Nader/Camejo	7
Governor					
Benson	409	Lynch	415		
U.S. Senator					
Gregg	502	Haddock	290		
U.S. Representative					
Bass	473	Hodes	269	Libertarian Kahn	47
Executive Councilor					
Wheeler	430	Pignatelli	333		

State Senator					
Haytayan	407	Gottesman	339		
State Representative					
Drisko	372	Dunn	294		
Gargasz	366	Hall	394		
Molkentine	287	Helfman	254		
Ryder	312	Robinson	279		

Constitutional Amendment 376 Yes, 260 No

County results are on file at the Secretary of State's office.

Charlotte N Hastings, Town Clerk

1804 History Highlights

Moderator Joses Bucknam
Town Clerk John Blodgett
Selectmen John Blodgett
 Joses Bucknam
 Samuel Smith Jr.
Representative: Dea. R. Weston

Marriages: 13
Births: 33
Deaths: 17 Men - 2 Women - 7 Children - 1 Infants - 7

Edward Wilson, father of Samuel Wilson (Uncle Sam) and his wife Lucy, moved to Troy, New York in 1804. He died there June 17, 1816 at the age of 82. His widow Lucy returned to Mason and lived out her remaining years with her son Captain Thomas Wilson and his family in the house on Valley Road. She died December 8, 1835, aged 97 years, and is buried in the cemetery near the Mason Congregational Church on Valley Road.

October 11, 1804 - Severe storm - rain, sleet and snow, much damage to trees.

All the above information was taken from the **Town History - 1749 to 1858** by John B. Hill.

